

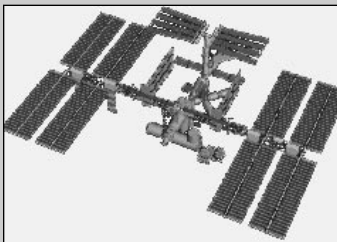
Space News ROUNDUP!

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Clip and save the complete International Space Station assembly sequence.

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Boy scouts brave the rain for a camp out at JSC's pecan grove.

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Moody Gardens adds a new pyramid with the help of JSC workers.

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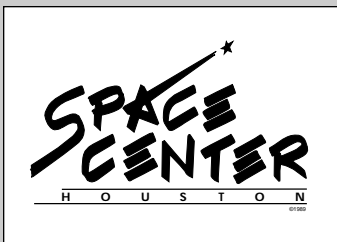
Twenty-four years ago, astronauts make the first trip to a space station.

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Now is the time to apply for astronaut candidate school.

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Robot Zoo is set to open and summer camps are now taking reservations.

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Station board approves new schedule

By James Hartsfield

The International Space Station Control Board has approved a new baseline schedule that keeps the assembly sequence intact and targets the first station launch for June 1998—an eight-month delay from the previous schedule.

As announced by NASA in April, the revision in the station's assembly schedule is the direct result of funding delays in the construction of the Service Module, the primary Russian contribution to the early assembly of the station and a component that will supply the early living

quarters, life support systems and propulsion. Russian-funded work on the Service Module now has fully resumed as a result of Russian government funding, and it is rapidly progressing.

"The recent completion of a major Russian general designers review for the Service Module, in which I participated, and full Russian funding of the work, gives us high confidence that the Service Module can meet a revised launch date of December 1998," Program Manager Randy Brinkley said. "The Russian Space Agency has been

extremely forthcoming in its dealings with NASA on this subject, and they and their contractors have gone out of their way to demonstrate their resolve to meet their commitment. Based on what I saw and heard during my most recent visit to Russia, I have every confidence that the RSA and the Russian space industry are fully committed to meeting their obligations for the Service Module and ISS."

Although the first station launch, that of the Functional Energy Block on a Russian Proton booster, is

delayed by eight months in the new schedule, the beginning of full-fledged research flights to the station in August 1999—the end of Phase 2 of the program—is a delay of only four months from what previously had been planned. To enhance the station's capabilities, modifications will be made to the Functional Energy Block to allow it to be refueled and to accommodate dockings by Russian Soyuz capsules.

Despite delays in the Russian hardware, work has continued on all U.S. station components, and the

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NASA Photo S84E5049

Having completed the donning of his Sokol space suit—his first duty as a cosmonaut researcher for Mir-23—Mike Foale, left, poses with Jerry Linenger onboard Mir's base block. Foale's checkout in the Russian suit was one of several activities that marked his transition from STS-84 to Mir 23 crew member. He relieves Linenger, who has been on Mir since the middle of January, and will extend the continuous American presence on the Russian station until Wendy Lawrence arrives in September.

Survey findings highlight space program's impact

A national survey released recently by the Council for Excellence in Government highlights the importance of space to the public, said NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin.

The survey, conducted for the council by the research firms of Peter D. Hart and Robert M. Teeter, indicates that "promoting space exploration" is the only one of 16 tested items about which a plurality of Americans say the federal government has been very successful.

"This survey demonstrates again the importance Americans place on exploration and discovery," Goldin said, "and their belief that one of the most important roles of the federal government is to help push back the boundaries of knowledge. NASA is not only a crucial investment in our national future—it is also a tangible symbol to the American people

of the greatness to which we aspire.

"We are gratified to learn from this survey that NASA has been successful in meeting the needs of the American public," Goldin said. "In recent years, we have redoubled our efforts to be responsive to the public and to describe, in meaningful terms, the value and relevance of space exploration.

"NASA's original charter mandates that the agency widely disseminate the results of its activities. Our philosophy is one of openness, of sharing the triumphs and set-backs of our cutting-edge research," Goldin said. "As a result, the public has shared these experiences and many feel a sense of direct ownership or involvement in NASA's programs. This is how it should be—NASA's programs are, indeed, their programs."

Texas Legislature honors space, technology

Twenty-six years after President Kennedy challenged America to put a man on the Moon, the 75th Texas Legislature will be asked to dedicate the last week of May to NASA and its technological accomplishments.

On Wednesday, May 28, Rep. Bill Carter, R-Ft. Worth, will introduce into the House of Representatives a resolution proclaiming the week of May 25-31 Texas Space and Technology Week.

"It is my great honor and privilege to be part of a group of Texans who witnessed the spec-

tacular launch of the Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission," Carter said. "It had to be the most exciting sight I have ever witnessed. I was more impressed with the professionalism and the vast networking of engineering skills required for space exploration. The next day I started talking to other people in the Legislature to see if I could get support on promoting 'Texas Space and Technology Week.'"

Carter and his colleagues will recognize NASA, its contractors and

the Clear Lake Economic Development Foundation for their commitment to the advancement of space and technology in Texas.

"We all agreed that we needed to raise the awareness of the most outstanding space program in the world," Carter said. "It also would give us an opportunity to showcase some of the outstanding technology that has been a direct result of our space program."

To celebrate, a special exhibit will be featured during the week in the rotunda of the capitol building. A 20-

foot-long graphic tells the story of human space flight while the opposite side describes the medical benefits of space technology. Both sides use pictorial views to illustrate the progress NASA has made in exploring space and identifying tangible results from technology.

The Technology Transfer and Commercialization Office will complement the 20-foot display with a technology exhibit that uses graphics, photos and actual consumer products developed by commercial entities from space technology.

Linenger hands off Mir baton

Astronaut Mike Foale is settling in as the newest American flight engineer aboard the Russian Mir Space Station after a successful docking of the Space Shuttle *Atlantis*.

Foale officially relieved colleague Jerry Linenger on May 18; it was Linenger's 123rd day on orbit.

"Your NASA 5 crew member would like to report that he has fully switched over to the Mir side," Foale told Mission Control, Houston. "We have done a successful check of my space suit and the Soyuz and, most important, the food is getting ready in the base block and I guess my sleeping bag's hanging on the wall in Spektr. So I'd like to report that I have exchanged places with Jerry and I'm looking forward to my stay here."

"I stand relieved of duties on the Mir," Linenger acknowledged. "It's good to be back on U.S. soil and joining Charlie Precourt's crew, and looking forward to seeing you all back in Houston. Thanks to everybody for all the support over the last four or five months."

Linenger briefed Foale about conditions on board the Russian outpost, showing him where things are located, and bringing Foale up to speed on scientific experiments. Foale will serve aboard the Russian facility for four and a half months until he is replaced by Wendy Lawrence when *Atlantis* again docks with Mir in September.

In addition to the exchange of human cargoes, the shuttle and Mir crews also transferred a new oxygen generating system for the Mir and loaded the old unit onto *Atlantis* for return to Earth. The new Elektron will be installed in Mir's Kvant-1 module after *Atlantis* undocks and used as a backup to the existing Elektron unit in the Kvant-2 module.

The rest of the cargo transfer also went well as the two crews moved more than 3 tons of food, fuel, clothing and other supplies between the two spacecraft.

The other space travelers performed a variety of science experiments. Commander Charlie Precourt and Pilot Eileen Collins set up equipment to take environmental air samples and cosmic radiation measurements. Mission Specialist Jean-François Clervoy

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